

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson
Tim Ochnikowski, Acting Director
May 12, 2014

MINUTES

Milw Public Library, Talking Books
814 W. Wisconsin Ave
1:00 PM

ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the May meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:04pm.

ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of those present. Commissioners present for the meeting of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities were:

Luis Arroyo
Deb Falk-Palec
Cheri Mc Grath
Meg Steimle
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

Absent or Excused:

John Haupt
Tom Jacobs
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.
Denise Koss
Barbara Leigh
Susan Pickering
Don Richards
Kathryn Zalewski

Staff:

Mike Bonk
Tim Ochnikowski

Guests:

Tom Kenney, MCTS
Don Natzke, MCTS
Cheryl Orgas, ABLE
Linda Vincent (& Katina), WI Talking Books & Braille Library

ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April)

Commissioner Walz-Chojnacki moved to accept the minutes, Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes.

ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (April)

Mr. Ochnikowski indicated that the DAS Quarterly meeting will be taking place on Wednesday at Wil-O-Way Grant. LilyWorks (Easter Seals catering/training service) will be providing cookies and brownies for the anticipated 180 people attending. In addition, coffee, water and tea will be provided. Mr. Bonk, Mr. Funches and Ms. Chase will have everything ready to go on Wednesday morning. Discussion took place regarding LilyWorks and the similar veteran's catering/training Troop Café.

ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS

Chair Falk-Palec mentioned the article in the Journal Sentinel written by James Causey <http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/the-long-trek-to-southridge-mall-in-a-wheelchair-b99264225z1-258643071.html> . In the article Mr. Causey wrote about his experience with riding the bus in a wheelchair to Southridge then pushing to the mall. Mr. Ochnikowski mentioned that actions of the County Board's Transportation Committee pulling the potential ordinance that would allow locations that refuse to allow bus access to be ticketed. The committee pulled it temporarily when the Manager of Southridge appeared at the committee meeting and offered to work with Milwaukee County on seeking a solution. The committee allowed a 30 day talking period. Discussion took place regarding the safety and



distance of the walk to Southridge, the Simon Property Group doing this same thing at many of its malls around the country, the Department on Aging's involvement as well as others and the commission wanting the office to be involved with the talks.

Chair Falk-Palec indicated that she attended the Spring Fling and it was a great event. Mr. Bonk gave a brief overview of the event. There were 40 participants this year. The Girl Scouts did a great job with the arts, crafts and activities (Splash of Color) and they were well received. Mr. Bonk also gave brief overview of the Adaptive Sports Expo (July 26) and the Fishing Has No Boundries (August 23) events. Discussion took place regarding the adaptive sports expo, summer camp being full, spring fling and the fishing outing.

ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Mr. Kenney gave an overview of the New Freedom Grant changes (the Federal government will no longer be operating this grant but the Wisconsin DOT will be). The funding looks secure through 2017. Things are busy with operator trainings and orientations, as well as bus visits to organizations, schools etc. The 2014 ADA boardings on main-line transit is up in April but down overall this year, which is most likely due to weather related issues. There are numerous new concrete bus pads being poured this year. Mr. Natzke indicated that the transit "M Card" (smart card) is undergoing testing right now. The voice enunciator system is being rolled out to the buses. Real-time bus monitoring/information is being tested right now. The Director position has changed to Dan Boehm. The taxi RFP was reviewed. The current contract was extended to December, 2015.

ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

Katina distributed some information and gave an overview of the Connections In Sight program. Discussion took place regarding the materials, website and the call center. Ms. Orgas distributed some materials and gave an overview of ABLE (Audio and Braille Literacy Enhancement). Ms. Vincent gave an overview of the Talking Books and Braille Library. Discussion took place regarding the number of books available and the number borrowed each day, the services and history. A tour was offered but due to the late hour, it was not given. Commissioner McGrath suggested that next month's meeting return to the library and that we start with a tour.

ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS

ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

ITEM XI ADJOURN

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:53pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, June 9, 2014 at 1:00pm at Milwaukee Public Library, Braille & Talking Books Library (814 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission